

Mayoral centra el capítulo octavo en los casos clave de la traducción de: partidas de nacimiento, matrimonio y defunción; títulos y expedientes académicos, y contratos. Para cada tipo de documento realiza un magnífico análisis de los problemas que podría ocasionar e idea soluciones muy bien ejemplificadas y coherentes.

En el capítulo noveno Mayoral trata de las fuentes de información, de la documentación. Son de gran ayuda las indicaciones que proporciona para saber si se puede confiar en un tipo de fuente o no, además de las ideas sobre dónde encontrar información y los consejos acerca de los lugares dedicados a la documentación.

El último capítulo trata otros temas de interés profesional, como los colegios profesionales de traductores (parece ser que existen) o las asociaciones de traductores jurados o generales. Mayoral ofrece unos listados con los nombres y datos para ponerse en contacto con este tipo de asociaciones.

Para finalizar, después de lo que serían propiamente capítulos, aparecen tres apartados: referencias bibliográficas sobre el tema tratado; listados de direcciones elec-

trónicas útiles de fuentes de información, traductores y revistas especializadas; y, por último, un apéndice con ejemplos de documentos reales, que también sirven para realizar los ejercicios propuestos en los anteriores capítulos.

Translating official documents es una excelente monografía sobre traducción jurada. Mayoral ha dejado muy pocos e insignificantes temas en el tintero. Es más, con este libro culmina la labor iniciada con algunos trabajos anteriores (cabe recordar: «Traducción oficial (jurada) y funciones». Manuel FERIA (ed.). «Traducir para la justicia». Granada: *Comares*: 59-86; «La traducción jurada del inglés al español de documentos paquistaníes: un caso de traducción reintercultural». *Sendebat* 6: 115-46). Se aprecia su voluntad de guiar en este campo tan minado a quien quiera seguir sus buenos consejos. La claridad con que ha dibujado todos los problemas y sus soluciones es admirable, y ayuda a entender con mayor profundidad la complejidad de una disciplina que sigue tan desdibujada en muchas mentes: la traducción jurada.

David Valenzuela Gabarrón

NIDA, Eugene A.

Fascinated by Languages

Amsterdam/Philadelphia: John Benjamins Publishing Company, 2003. 157 p.

Fascinated by Languages is a fascinating book; it is a special book, too. In this book, Eugene A. Nida tells his life story, i.e. the story of a dedicated Bible translator. Not only is this story itself fascinating because of the way it is told: lucidly but with an eye for details; it intertwines personal experiences and anecdotes with scientifically detailed observations and statements. Also the story teller is fascinating: while the story is backed by a lengthy and scholarly impressive bibliography (Nida calls it a "selective" bibliography) with numerous books and articles, Nida also mentions such

comparatively common real-life details as "At heart I am a gardener and in Greenwich, Connecticut we had three acres of woods that I turned into an acre of flowers, including 400 rose bushes, and an acre and a half of fruit and vegetables, including asparagus, tomatoes, sixty blueberry bushes, fifty yards of raspberry vines, and lots of corn each year" (p. 135). This is not to say that Nida is a person full of contradictions. On the contrary, he emerges as someone with a very open mind for everything and someone who combines the best of things into his own view on translating, and in

particular Bible translating. He calls himself “an eclectic and a pragmatist” (p. 140). Eugene Nida is a man of combining things and this is reflected in this book: it is a scholarly monograph but at the same time a novel and it presents personal experiences but also scientific facts. And like in his educational and work background, here too he combines a number of disciplines: translation, Bible translation, anthropological linguistics, linguistics and culture. Even the audience of his book is a mix: it is interesting in particular not only for experts such as Bible translators and translation scholars, but also for students of translation and laymen.

The book consists of 4 parts. In the first part (“Fascinated by languages”, p. 1-8), Nida briefly describes his scientific and professional activities and his work for the American Bible Society and the United Bible Societies. In part (2), “In more than ninety countries” (p. 9-65), he lucidly describes his experiences in the countries that he visited with many anecdotes relating to problems of translating the Bible across cultures. This part is particularly interesting from an anthropological linguistics point of view. In part (3), “Bible translation, texts and interpretations” (p. 67-132), Nida smoothly turns to the art of Bible translating and reviews such matters as e.g. faith and faithfulness of translation in Bible translating, the special status of Bible translating and the effects that this has on the

way of translating and translation training, some problem passages in the Greek and Hebrew texts of the Bible, and the impact of the 2nd Vatican Council on the demand for Bible translating. He concludes this part with a discussion of a number of notorious translation problems that the Bible translator faces, ranging from idioms to metaphorical language¹. In the last part, “A personal touch” (p. 135-143), Nida depicts himself as “an eclectic and a pragmatist” (p. 140), also when it comes down to translating: “In translating I am also an eclectic and a pragmatist” (p. 142). The book does not, however, give an account of the future of Bible translating, which would have suited very well here. For this see e.g. Nida (2001).²

On the whole, the book is well-written and, as mentioned before, the body of it could well be called a novel (if one leaves out the table of contents, the bibliography and the index). The book’s strength is that it is capable of arousing the reader’s interest and keeping him interested until the very end. From cover to cover it breathes great enthusiasm of the author for (Bible) translating, languages and cultures. It is an absolute must.

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1. For an in-depth study of such problems and a theoretical and, at the same time, practical framework to tackle them, see Larson, M. (1984/1998). *Meaning-based Translation. A Guide to Cross-Language Equivalence*. Lanham/New York/Oxford: University Press of America, Inc.
2. Nida, Eugene A. (2001). “Future trends in Bible translating”. In: Thelen, M. and B. Lewandowska-Tomaszczyk (eds.), *Translation and Meaning, Part 5. Proceedings of the Maastricht Session of the 3rd International Maastricht-Łódź Duo Colloquium on “Translation and Meaning”, held in Maastricht, The Netherlands, 26-29 April 2000*. p. 393-398. Maastricht: Hogeschool Zuyd, Maastricht School of Translation and Interpreting. See also: <<http://www.hszuyd.msti.translation-and-meaning.nedweb.com>>